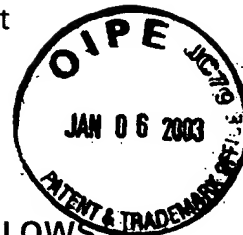


Rabbani et al.

Serial No.: 08/978,637

Filed : November 25, 1997

Page 3 [Response To December 3, 2002 Restriction Requirement
And Preliminary Amendment -- January 6, 2003]



PLEASE AMEND THE ABOVE-IDENTIFIED APPLICATION AS FOLLOWS.

In The Claims:

RECEIVED

JAN 09 2003

Enter replacement claims 247, 250, 278 and 302 as follows:

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

G¹
247. (Amended) The composition of claim 245, wherein said primary nucleic acid component is selected from a nucleic acid, a nucleic acid construct, a nucleic acid conjugate, a virus, a viral fragment, a viral vector, a viroid, a phage, a phage, a plasmid, a plasmid vector, and a bacterial fragment, or a combination of the foregoing.

G²
250. (Amended) The composition of claim 249, wherein said DNA, RNA or both are modified.

G³
278. (Amended) The composition of claim 265, wherein said nucleic acid component is selected from a nucleic acid, a nucleic acid construct, a nucleic acid conjugate, a virus, a viral fragment, a viral vector, a viroid, a phage, a phage, a plasmid, a plasmid vector, and a bacterial fragment, or a combination of the foregoing.

G⁴
302. (Amended) The nucleic acid component of claim 299, wherein said component is derived or selected from a nucleic acid, a nucleic acid construct, a nucleic acid conjugate, a virus, a viral fragment, a viral vector, a viroid, a phage, a phage, a plasmid, a plasmid vector, and a bacterial fragment, or a combination of the foregoing.

Rabbani et al.

Serial No.: 08/978,637

Filed : November 25, 1997

Page 4 [Response To December 3, 2002 Restriction Requirement
And Preliminary Amendment -- January 6, 2003]

Please add new claim 317 as follows:

GS -- 317 (NEW) The composition of claim 245, wherein said secondary nucleic acid
is DNA and said tertiary nucleic acid is RNA. --

* * * * *